

I-84 Orchard Interchange to Gowen Interchange

Project # NH-STP-84-2(015)51

Key # 6492

Public Meeting Summary

The purpose of the meeting was to inform local, state and federal agencies and the general public, that the project is moving forward and allow them to share information about existing conditions in the area and give comments about the scope and topics that the environmental document should address.

Time/Date/Location

I-84 Orchard Interchange to Gowen Interchange

February 26, 2003 (4:00-7:00p.m.)

Holiday Inn

3300 Vista Ave.

Boise, Idaho

Project Team Staff

In Attendance

Brandon Coates (LFPR)

Lynda Friesz-Martin (LFPR)

Greg Vitely (ITD)

Gwen Smith (ITD)

Aaron Bauges (ITD)

Zane Lathm (ITD)

Tom Points (ITD)

Mollie McCarty (ITD)

Eric Shannon (ITD)

Sue Sullivan (ITD)

Dave Szplett (WIS)

Dave Butzier (WIS)

Mike Vogel (WIS)

Pete Szobonya (WIS)

Scott Richmond (DEA)

Martha Wiley (DEA)

Kara Maskew (LFPR)

Dave Aspitarte (BE)

Idaho Transportation Department (ITD)

Washington Infrastructure Services (WIS)

Lynda Friesz Public Relations (LFPR)

David Evans & Associates (DEA)

Bionomics Environmental (BE)

Meeting Participants'

- A total of 193 people attended the public meeting.

Demographics

- Of those 193 participants, 131 were male.

- Of those 193 participants, 62 were female.
- 166 participants were representing themselves as businesses, property/homeowners or interested citizens.
- 8 participants were representing neighborhood associations.
- 6 participants were from local, state and federal agencies.
- 1 participant was from Boise City Council.
- 2 participants were from ACHD.
- 1 participant was from the Idaho State Senate.

Public Outreach

February 2, 2003	Newspaper Ad appears in the Idaho Statesman
February 9, 2003	Newspaper Ad appears in the Idaho Press Tribune
February 10, 2003	Meeting Postcard mailed to public
February 16, 2003	Newspaper Ad appears in the Idaho Press Tribune
February 17, 2003	Meeting Brochure mailed to public
February 22, 2003	Transportation Fair at Boise Town Square Mall
February 23, 2003	Newspaper Ad appears in the Idaho Statesman
February 25, 2003	Public Affair sends out press release
February 26, 2003	Public Meeting held
March 12, 2003	Deadline for public comment

Stakeholder/Mailing List persons/groups	Approx. #
Project Team	013
ITD Officials	021
County Officials	012
City Officials	009
State Officials	012
Agencies	013

Neighborhood Associations	029
Property Owners	307
Interested Public	182
<u>Media</u>	<u>011</u>
Total 609	

All mailings were sent to the individuals on the stakeholder/ mailing list as well as through a zip code mail drop to the postal routes near the project area. The mail drop included 8,555 addresses.

Total Mailing Reach 9,164

Summary of Written Comments

Comments were collected from February 26, 2003 through March 12, 2003 regarding the I-84 Orchard to Gowen project. Meeting participants, home/business owners, neighborhood associations, elected officials and interested citizens provided the transportation department with thirty-two (32) written comments. Numerous issues and concerns regarding the I-84 Orchard to Gowen project were expressed in each comment form. The following bullet points highlight the public's various issues and concerns.

Growth:

- Plan for growth; add enough lanes to accommodate future growth
- I-84 Orchard to Gowen roads need replacing and widening as soon as possible
- Make I-84 Orchard to Gowen the maximum number of lanes possible within the right-of-way
- Interstate should be 4 lanes in each direction
- Remodel the narrow 2-lane (each direction) into at least 3 lanes (each direction)

Noise:

- Improve the sound from the freeway by putting a sound wall up
- Noise is constant and loud, there needs to be a sound barrier
- What can be done to reduce noise?
- What will the noise level be when project is completed?
- Build sound wall high enough to take care of the oversized trucks that now are allowed on our highways
- Sound protection is needed from Broadway to Vista Ave., this should be first priority in project
- How will a sound wall affect our investment on our property located near the freeway? If affected negatively, what would be our option? Would ITD pay fair market value to purchase the property from us?

Construction:

- Concerns with heavy construction equipment traveling through residential neighborhood
- Concerns with traffic being re-routed during construction of the Broadway bridge
- What will the noise level of construction be during the project?

Traffic:

- How much traffic is through traffic?
- Keep slow traffic to the right and impose heavy fines for passing on the right
- Cut heavy truck speed to 55 mph through Boise, Meridian, Nampa, and Caldwell area
- Traffic needs to be pushed through Meridian, Eagle Road

Appearance:

- It would nice to see each interchange have great landscaping and reflect the notion of “The City of Trees”
- Landscaping would improve the overall image of the city

Interchanges:

- Make use of cloverleaf’s or fly-overs wherever possible
- The west bound on-ramp at Vista is too short
- On-ramps on Vista and Broadway are too short
- Re-align Orchard Interchange per CH2M study recommendations
- Consider a Gowen Interchange
- Build interchanges at Ten Mile, Five Mile Roads
- I am a little unclear on whether the westbound on-ramp is going to just be widened or if the overpass over Gowen Road is going to be widened and extended?
- The underpass is too narrow for Micron, Gowen Field, Auto Auction, and Outlet Mall commuter traffic

Bypass:

- There should be a bypass from 10 mile to Gowen, or to Isaac Canyon
- Put in a bypass as far as can go with 6 lanes and 4 interchanges, Gowen to Eagle or Meridian
- Consider building the Freeway bypass south of airport (Gowen Road area), or farther south (Black Creek Road area)
- Bypass would help reduce the number of vehicles per day
- In the future Boise is going to need a bypass due to the truck traffic going through Boise and heading to Portland or Seattle area
- Truck bypass would help with congestion
- I-84 bypass needed from Eisenman to West Ada or Canyon County

General:

- Appreciation for involving the public in projects where they may be affected
- Why widened Orchard to Gowen when from Orchard to Ontario is congested?

- Educate drivers on how to enter (from the left) and exit expressway
- Orchard between I-84 and Overland presently need center turn-lanes and will need them more when project is completed
- Concerns with the protection of neighborhood adjoining the interstate. Include a safety barrier
- Air pollution is a problem, and more traffic near residential will create more health risks
- Consider Lake Hazel alignment study
- Road tax that trucks pay is not enough, they ruin the roads